

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00  
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05  
OES-07 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 H-01  
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /115 W  
-----020221 232345Z /21

R 231723Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7524  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24485

E.O.11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MNUC PINT FR PK  
SUBJ: FRENCH VIEWS OF THE PAKISTAN SCENE

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, MOREAU, WHO HAS LONG WORKED ON SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS SAID THAT AGHA SHAHI WOULD PROBABLY GET A WARM PERSONAL WELCOME WHEN HE COMES TO PARIS SEPT 8 BECAUSE HE KNEW FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD VERY WELL WHEN BOTH WERE AT THE UNITED NATIONS. FRANCE WOULD BE LESS HAPPY WITH THE PRESSURES WHICH SHAHI WOULD BRING TO BEAR CONCERNING FRENCH DELIVERIES FOR THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GENERALS AND THE PNA MUST PRESS FRANCE CONCERNING THE REPROCESSING PLANT SINCE TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO LEAVE A VERY EFFECTIVE ELECTION ISSUE FOR BHUTTO TO EXPLOIT. MOREAU DID NOT KNOW HOW FRANCE WOULD HANDLE THIS PROBLEM, BUT THE DECISION ABOUT WHAT TO SAY WOULD BE MADE AT A HIGH LEVEL OF THE GOF.

2. MOREAU SAID THAT HE AND OTHER FRENCH DIPLOMATS HAD TALKED WITH A NUMBER OF WELL INFORMED PAKISTANIS, AND  
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THE GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS OCTOBER. THE MILITARY HAD WISHED TO PROCEED WITH THIS TIME TABLE, BUT THERE WAS JUST NOT ENOUGH TIME. EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE LIVES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE BHUTTO CONTINUES TO HAVE A CONSIDERABLE FOLLOWING. IF THIS VOTE WERE MOBILIZED -- AND IT SEEMED NOW THAT BHUTTO CAN

PROBABLY DO SO FOR OCTOBER ELECTIONS -- HE WOULD HAVE A GOOD CHANCE TO EMERGE THE VICTOR. GENERAL ZIA AND SOME OF THE OTHERS BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE THROWN IN JAIL BY A VICTORIOUS -- AND VINDICTIVE -- BHUTTO. THE PNA IS BASICALLY RUNNING ON A NEGATIVE PROGRAM OF OPPOSITION TO BHUTTO, BUT UNLIKE THE INDIAN OPPOSITION TO MME. GANDHI, THE PNA DOES NOT HAVE A CORE OF EXPERIENCED AND COMPETENT POLITICIANS, MUCH LESS A WELL KNOWN LEADER SUCH AS DESAI. WHILE THE LEADERS OF THE DISPARATE GROUPS COULD MARTIAL THEIR VARIED SUPPORTERS IN CERTAIN AREAS, IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT BY OCTOBER THEY COULD FORGE A LEADERSHIP GROUP WHICH COULD MAKE A NATIONWIDE APPEAL TO THE RURAL AREAS TO ATTRACT THE NUMBER OF VOTES NECESSARY TO DEFEAT BHUTTO. THEY WILL NEED MORE TIME AND WILL NEED TO COME UP WITH A MORE UNITED, COMPETENT LEADERSHIP.

3. IN ADDITION, MANY OF THE PAKISTANI BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE MILITARY ARE ENJOYING THE EXPERIENCE OF GOVERNING AND BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN PLAY A CREATIVE ROLE IN A POLITICAL EVOLUTION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A REAL ALTERNATIVE TO BHUTTO -- IF THEY HAVE THE TIME. MOREAU THEREFORE SHARED THE CONCLUSION OF THOSE WHO THOUGHT THAT SOME PRETEXT WOULD BE FOUND TO DELAY THE ELECTIONS AT LEAST A NUMBER OF MONTHS.

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## Message Attributes

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